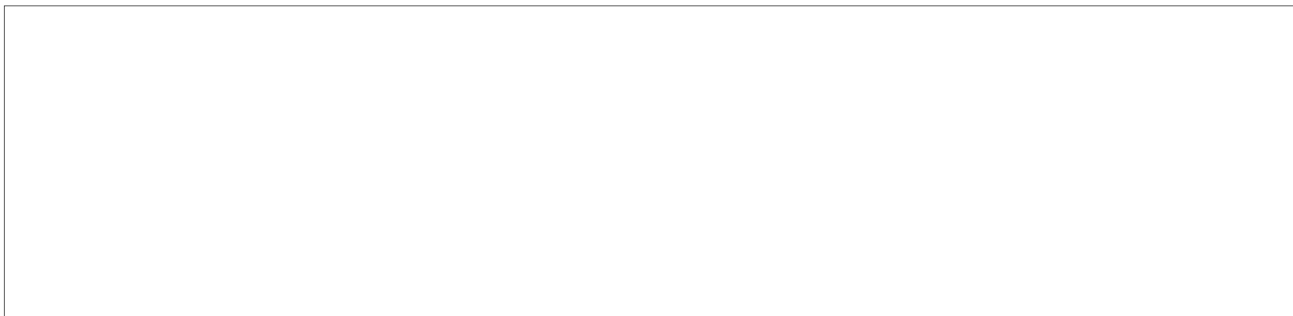


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The Philippines: Election Developments

The polls have been closed for ten hours and the vote tally is well underway. Few results have been reported and it is too early to project a winner. President Marcos, however, has said in several interviews on US media that he expects to win with a margin of 5 to 7 million votes.

25X1



Early reporting suggests that fraud is playing a critical role in the process. According to [redacted] numerous press reports, widespread fraud and violence on both sides took place during the balloting. What is not clear is whether massive fraud has cost the appearance of a relatively clean election by Philippine standards.

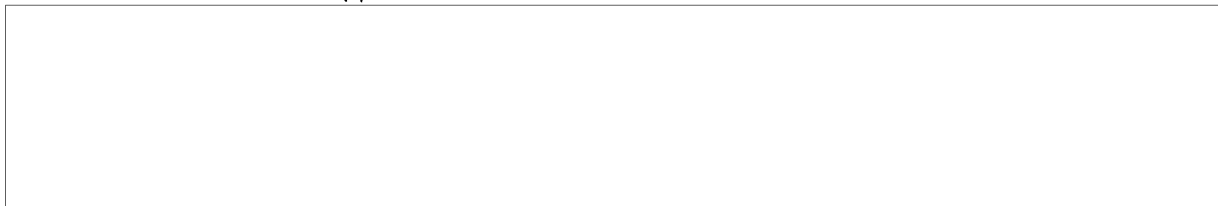
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-- Press reports suggest that 87 people have been killed in election violence thus far, a figure that is within traditional levels of violence in Philippine elections.

25X1



If Marcos wins in a fraudulent election it probably will spark widespread demonstrations in Manila, where Aquino has threatened to lead the protest. How Aquino handles the crowds would do much to determine whether Marcos could ride out the storm of protest.

-- According to press, demonstrations sponsored by the opposition are scheduled to start tomorrow.

-- Although the military has been ordered to exercise caution, the situation would be volatile, and the potential for violent confrontations would be especially great if Communist-controlled groups participated, as seems likely.

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